

FROM		INITIALS		DATE	REMARKS
NPIC/IEG/MSD				13 October 1970	
DIRECTOR					
DEP/DIRECTOR	4				
EXEC/DIRECTOR	3			10/15	
SPECIAL ASST	2			10/15	
ASST TO DIR					
HISTORIAN					
CH/PPBS					
DEP CH/PPBS					
EXO/PPBS					
CH/SS					
DEP CH/SS					
SC & P					
RECORDS MGT					
PERSONNEL					
LOGISTICS					
TRAINING					
SECURITY					
FINANCE					
CH/IEG	1				
DEP CH/IEG					
EXO/IEG					
CH/PSG					
DEP CH/PSG					
EXO/PSG					
CH/TSG					
DEP CH/TSG					
EXO/TSG					
DIR/IAS/DDI					
CH/DIAXX-4					
CH/DIAAP-9					

DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

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IEG/MSD-288/70
13 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT : Requirements for Effective Coverage Plots

1. At the request of the Executive Director, NPIC, Messrs. [] 25X1
[] IEG/MSD, met with [] COMIREX Staff, 25X1
to discuss requirements for effective-coverage plots of Soviet ICBM
complexes. Also in attendance were [] Chairman, EXSUBCOM, 25X1
and [] OSP. The meeting was held on 9 October 1970 in MSD.

2. Discussions centered on the various requirements to delineate those areas within ICBM complexes which have been satisfactorily covered by satellite photography and to report on those areas in a timely manner to various users. [] explained the need for an expedited feedback report on those targets which are covered on the first bucket of each mission. For the economic and efficient programming of the second bucket it is important to know which targets have been satisfactorily covered to prevent needless repetition of coverage. He explained that the emphasis of this report, which is prepared by NPIC/PSG, is on speed of delivery and that precision is not as important. PSG's latest report was on [] PSG was requested to produce cloud-cover plots of 27 high-priority targets. Data provided by PSG/R&RD showed that utilizing nine people it took ten hours to complete the cloud-cover plots. However, four of the nine people are new; once the new people gain experience, PSG believes it should not take more than about 2-1/2 hours to determine the cloud-cover status for any one ICBM complex.

3. The coverage plot of each ICBM complex which MSD/OMB compiles and transmits to OSR after each mission was also discussed. These plots are prepared with less stringent time requirements and take into account interpretability factors in addition to clouds. Since there are many variables in determining the interpretability of coverage (e.g., snow, sun angle, and obliquity), it takes longer to assess than does the cloud cover status. MSD completed a study of the Teykovo ICBM Complex using [] It took an experienced PI, who was familiar with the target, 3-1/2 hours to determine the percentage of interpretable coverage and plot the information on a map. It is important to note that both the PSG and the IEG studies were in close agreement. I believe it is safe to say that it would probably be so 90 per cent of the time.

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4. [] agreed that the two reports serve different needs and that the two requirements are probably incompatible. [] suggested that the report prepared by OMB be transmitted also to ICRS and to NRO and be made part of the target history file, superseding the preliminary report done in the initial haste.

5. [] is writing a paper on all aspects of the "effective coverage" problem and a proposed organized approach to solving the problem through the use of WAG cells and a computerized program. He expects to have the study ready shortly.

6. Until [] study is available for review, no further action on our part is anticipated.

[]
Chief, Missiles and Space Division
IEG/NPIC

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